

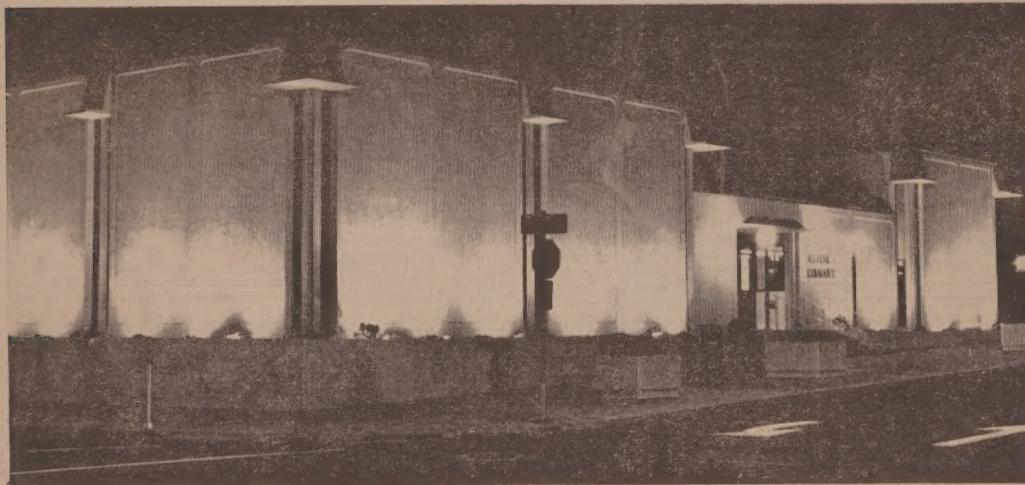
# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

ASTORIA, OREGON

The Newspaper of the Great Sunset Empire

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1967

## Astoria Greets Its New Library...



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# \$100,000 Astor Gift Sequel to Visit in 1961

The \$100,000 gift of the Astor came as a surprising sequel to a visit paid here

in 1961 by Lord John Jacob Astor, Baron of Hever, and his family, to attend the Sesquicentennial celebration of Astoria's founding.

The monetary gift was made with no strings attached, and following receipt came long study and quizzing of the community as to best

use of the sum.

Major Harry Steinbock appointed a committee to propose possible use, and presented their views to the populace for their choice.

The Daily Astorian ran blanks in each day's edition, to be filled out with indication of suitable use for the

money. Three major items were taken into consideration: 1) That the sum of the gift totalled \$100,000; 2) That it was a gift to the city, therefore should be used inside the city; and 3) Whatever use was decided upon, it should be dedicated as a living memorial to John Jacob Astor.

Final decision reached was on a library, and the new Astor library is dedicated to the founder of the city.

The Baron of Hever is proprietor of the London Times and a direct descendant of

the Astor who founded the city in 1811. He has many castles in England.

Research has shown that another John Jacob Astor gave the city \$10,000 in 1911 to help finance the Centennial celebration of the city.

The Astor who made the first monetary gift to the city went to his death a year later aboard the liner Titanic in April, 1912. A letter enclosed with his check said that the original John Jacob Astor was his great grandfather.

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# State Documents Give Wide Variety of Facts



Mrs. C. B. Engeman is willing to help all patrons in the reference section of the new Astor library. The section is designed to give out quick information on specific questions, and is an invaluable source of factual unbiased information. Mrs. Engeman has proved the worth of the section, as well as showing the broad spectrum of subjects covered in reference materials, by answering telephone queries asking everything from how to lay tile the old fashioned way to the geographical center of the US now that Hawaii and Alaska are a part of the union.

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The Astoria Library is one of 36 libraries located in county seats in Oregon serving as a depository for state documents. These documents are located in the reference area, in charge of Mrs. C. B. Engeman. All state reports of any nature are forwarded to the library and are available for reference by patrons.

Idea of the reference area, Mrs. Engeman said, is to give out quick information

IT WAS OUR  
PLEASURE  
TO HAVE BEEN  
A PART OF  
THE NEW  
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and answers to specific questions. It is possibly the best source of factual unbiased material in the library, she added.

The reference area in the new library boasts a pamphlet file in a wall container, rather than crammed drawers as previously. The wall container can be closed off by an overhead drawer panel.

Pamphlets are for the most part, give away material, from such sources as county health offices and agricultural centers. Data is filed according to subject, and all circulates on an overnight basis. Every two months, pamphlets are ordered from the government's superintendent of documents office. Outmoded material is destroyed when new pamphlets are obtained.

The Encyclopedia of Careers has had a good working over this summer, Mrs. Engeman said. The book tells the correct form to use when writing a job resume.

## 220 Magazines Go to Library

One hundred fifty current magazines are on the subscription list at the Astor library. In addition, the library receives an additional 70 per month as gifts from organizations, such as political groups and trade unions, which want their house organs represented in the library.

which is what library callers have been primarily interested in.

Also available in the reference section are many career brochures, telephone directories of all major cities in the United States, city directories supplied by the chamber of commerce, encyclopedias and dictionaries, atlases, and most any type of book to answer questions and supply background information.

Of local interest is the clipping file, where newspaper accounts of business and

education in Astoria and Clatsop county are kept according to topic; for instance, Clatsop Community College, John Jacob Astor.

Microfilm of the Daily Astorian and its predecessors, dating back to 1873, is also found in the reference section, along with a viewer. Microfilm is stored in slide-out shelves in same area as the pamphlets.

Mrs. Engeman's section of the library is probably the most valuable of all to students, from junior high through college.

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Librarian Bruce Berney is seated at his desk in the only office occupying space in the newly-constructed \$370,000 Astor library. Berney has held his post since January. He has been an instructor of English in high schools in Washington and Japan and was school librarian for 3½ years in a suburb of Seattle. He received master's degree at Lewis and Clark college, Portland.

**Bruce Berney First Librarian  
In New Building**

Bruce Berney, librarian in Astoria since January, is the first librarian of the new Astor library. Berney grew up in Camas, Wash., where he graduated from high school. He received his bachelor of arts degree in English at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, followed by two years service in the Army. For one year he was an English teacher at Soap Lake, Wash., high school.

Berney went on to Lewis and Clark college, Portland, where he received a master's degree in education, after which he taught English in Japan for two years. Returning to the US, Berney was school librarian in the Highland district, a suburb of Seattle, for 3½ years. In August, 1966, he received a master's degree in librarianship at the University of Washington.

**Scandinavian  
Language Books  
Available Here**

Reading in the Astor library is not restricted to the English-speaking populace. The library boasts 21 shelves of books written in Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish, tagged the Scandinavian collection by library officials.

All the books are in one section, and those who read and speak more fluently in one of the Scandinavian languages are urged to partake of the offerings that cater to a sizable segment of the community.

The library acquired most of the books through donation by generations of Scandinavian families who no longer speak or read the "native" tongue. Aside from the 21 shelves of books, additional volumes are stored on the mezzanine.

Many volumes by Henrik Ibsen, Norway's most famous playwright, are in the collection. Shakespeare is in the Scandinavian tongues. Mrs. Narcissus Kinney, in 1906, donated a book to the Scandinavian collection. Her donation then marked book number 2794 in the entire library. The Astor library claims title to housing one of the largest Scandinavian collections in the northwest.

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By GOV. TOM McCALL

The city and people of Astoria should be intensely proud of "The Astor Library." For three-quarters of a century, Astorians have dreamed of a permanent library building. This dream became a reality because of the willingness of the people of Astoria to give freely of both time and money.

The library is the result of over four years of diligent, persistent efforts by scores of Astorians from every walk of life—the Astoria Library Board, your public officials, local groups and a legion of concerned citizens.

In this manner—through a high level of personal involvement—the people of Astoria have unmistakably manifested their support for this library.

Astoria—and Oregon—are deeply indebted to Lord John Jacob Astor and his family for their open-handed contribution to the library project. Without their help—and continuing interest in Astoria—the library might still lay on an architect's drawing board.

The dedication of this library, three-quarters of a century after the first private library was established in Astoria, is a signal achievement. It symbolizes the desire of the people of Astoria to broaden their knowledge and expand the horizons of their children.

**Book Drop Used**

Here is an interior shot of the book drop at the new Astor library. Books coming down the chute are left in the book depository slot at the front entrance to the building after closing hours.

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# Astorian Collection Grew from Early Gifts

The Astor library's Astorian collection, like Topsy, was donated and sometimes was not born . . . it just a gift of cash was received.

grew. Much of the material \$500 to the library in its early years.

Benefit concerts were held and once the local theater gave proceeds of its performance for an entire week. The daily or weekly papers were given to the library, and as most of these have been microfilmed, the name of the original owner is still to be seen above the headlines.

The chamber of commerce gave two books in 1907 which are now in the Astorian collection.

Astoria's interesting collection has grown from these early gifts and purchases. Carefully guarded by the librarians down through the ages, these books and pamphlets are now the original source of material on northwest history.

In some instances, the books are valued because of the author's signature or the gift inscriptions. Ezra Meeker autographed his book Kate Mulhall, a romance of the Oregon Trail. The Wolves of North America by Stanley P. Young and Edward A. Goldman is signed by both authors. The former was the youngest son of Benjamin Young, pioneer salmon packer.

A "Jas. Taylor" gave the library George Bancroft's five volume set of The History of the Colonization of the United States. He cared enough about the set to autograph his volume.

One of the copies of Fran-

chere's Narrative bears three signatures on the fly-leaf, the earliest being that of L. M. Lithgow, April 2, 1871.

A copy of Swan's Northwest Coast was given to the library by Lulu D. Crandall who apparently had received it from William H. Taylor. This book contains comments in the margins, one of which was penned by Clara C. Munson.

F. I. Dunbar, one-time secretary of state for Oregon, made a donation of The Early Indian Wars of Oregon by Frances Fuller Victor. And in 1931, Viscount Astor and Major John Jacob Astor, through their publisher, forwarded a two volume set of J. J. Astor, Businessman, by Kenneth Wiggin Porter.

Now that many of the old books are being reprinted, the reprints will be available to all, but this can never detract from the pleasure in owning the original.

All Oregon material is added as the budget allows, in the hope that future generations will enjoy what is being published now . . . that which will be history.

The Astorian collection is housed in glass case in the rear of the reference area.

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Mrs. Charles Smith, part-time library assistant, performs one of the routine tasks that is a part of everyday library life. Paying fines, checking out books, return of books and reshelving, issuing cards are all commonplace to the patron, but time-consuming to the employee. Mrs. Smith and her family reside in the Svensen area.

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## Library Service Free in Astoria

Persons living within the city limits of Astoria are eligible to hold a library card at the new Astor library free of charge. Because the library is a part of the municipal government of Astoria, and not supported by county taxes, those outside are charged a small annual fee.

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Molly Cowan, part-time library assistant and freshman at Clatsop Community college, checks out books for patrons of the newly constructed \$370,000 Astor library. Financing of \$100,000 came from the Astor family, and \$65,000 from the Veterans Memorial library fund.

Public Library  
Set Up in 1892  
By Corporation

A public library was established in Astoria in the early part of 1892 organized as a private corporation called the Astoria Public Library Association (APLA).

The major portion of operational funds in those days came from fees, which were \$50 for life membership; \$25; 10 year membership; \$3 for 1 year; \$1.75 for six months; \$1 for three months; 50 cents for one month. Non-subscribers could rent books for 15 cents per volume.

Change from private to municipal administration came about in 1913, when the APLA voted to convey all its properties to the city of Astoria. The private group had enjoyed more than 20 years of continuous operation.

The city received 5300 volumes, book racks, lighting fixtures and other property belonging to the corporation. The ordinance was signed by Mayor Edward E. Gray. A library board of nine directors was named.

In the first year in municipal operation the library received \$2,577.49 from taxes levied by the city for library purposes.

By 1925, the book stock had increased to 11,053 volumes, with a yearly circulation of 45,988 books. Number of registered borrowers stood at 4,114, almost half the population of the city.

The Daily Astorian, Astoria, Oregon, Friday, October 6, 1967

# Many Serve on Board Of Veterans Library

The board of directors of the Clatsop county Veterans Memorial Library from 1946-67 have included persons from all walks of life. Those areas represented on the

board include the library, county court, city of Astoria, veterans, chamber of commerce, civic organizations, granges, ministerial association, fraternal organizations, schools, historical society, central labor council, CIO, women's organizations, farm bureau and the west and east ends of Clatsop county.

Original incorporators of the board were Merle R. Chessman, James O. Convill, Clifford Dobbs, Neil L. Mortfitt and Afton Zundel.

Others on the board over the years according to Myron E. Jones, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Library building association, include the following: Brewer A. Billie, William Cantrell, Robert Chessman, Stan Church, Tom Clark, Edward Classen,

Michael Cosovich, William Cunningham, Dale Curry, Charles Durden, Frances Elving, Lorienne C. Fowler, George Gray, E. G. Griffith, George Grondus, Theodore Gulhaugen, Agnes Hansen, Edward W. Harvey, Robert A. Hawkins, Palmer Henningsen, Clifford Hitchman.

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# Rite Marks 75th Year of Library Service

Dedication of the new \$370,000 Astor library at 2 p.m. Sunday, marks the 75th anniversary of library service in Astoria.

Oregon Gov. Tom McCall is slated to deliver the dedi-

cation address, and remarks will also be given by Gavin Astor, who with his wife Lady Irene will travel from London to the town founded by their ancestor in 1811. The library, financed in part by a

monetary gift from the Astor family, will stand as a living memorial to John Jacob Astor.

Dedication will take place in the main reading room of the library on 10th between Duane and Exchange. Robert J. Hanson, past president, board of trustees, will preside as master of ceremonies.

Invocation and benediction will be by the Rev. Bruce Pond, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, and presentation of the colors and the flag salute will be by Astoria and Seaside Explorer Scouts.

Dr. Robert D. Neikes, chairman of the board of trustees of the Astoria library, will give the welcome, followed by comments by Dr. Lee C. Johnson, chairman, board of trustees, Oregon State Library.

Architect Ernest Brown will present the building for acceptance by Mayor Harry M. Steinbock and Librarian Berney.

Posting colors in the Flag Room will be done by contingents from the American Legion, Post 12, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 371. Open house will conclude the dedicatory program.

Site for the Astor library was provided by the city of Astoria. Revenue of \$378,092 came from the following sources: Astor fund and interest \$107,306; Veterans' Memorial Fund, \$65,602; American Legion, Post 12,



OREGON GOV. TOM MCCALL

\$11,000; federal grants, \$123,000; citizen contributions, \$12,576; interest earned on funds, \$7,308; city of Astoria general fund, \$43,300; and library fund, \$8,000.

Library area, main floor, contains 8800 square feet; mezzanine, 1764 square feet; with a full basement for future needs. The adult reading area has a seating capacity of 58, children's reading area, 26 seats, and Flag room, 70 seats. There are 16 parking spaces in the lot.

The library has a book capacity of 60,000 volumes. The library is open from 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, and is closed Sundays.

Leading collections of the Astor library are children's, young adults, adult, large print books, Scandinavian languages, magazines and pamphlets, phonograph records and inter-library loans.

Reference services provided include telephone books,

local and national newspapers, Astoria newspapers on microfilm, Astoria historical collection, government documents, quadrangle map and photo duplication.

The Flag Room, dedicated to veterans of wars, will be used for educational, cultural and civic meetings, children's story hours, film showings and to record concerts.

Architects of the new building were Brown and Brown and Rodney Grider, General contractor was Albert Mit-

tet; interior consultant George M. Schwarz; and landscape architect Lloyd Bond.

On the library board of trustees are Dr. Robert D. Neikes, chairman; Robert J. Hanson, Mrs. Walter O. Fransen, Mrs. Ragnar Nyback and Mrs. Leroy Steinmann. First staff to serve in the new building are Librarian Berney, Mrs. Mary Mason, Mrs. Paul Flood, Mrs. C. B. Engeman, Mrs. Darrell Demory and Mrs. Charles Smith. John D. Henderson is library consultant.

Members of the library construction committee are as follows: Dr. Neikes, chairman; Robert Chopping, Roy A. Duos, Marjorie Halderman, Neil L. Morfitt, Mrs. Ragnar Nyback, Frank M. Thorsness, Dale F. Curry, city manager; Homer V. Tunks, city engineer; Berney, librarian; and Laurence Solomon, Oregon State Library, consultant.

## Inter-Library Loan Service Provides Books

Patrons can obtain any book that they may wish to read or use as reference that is available in the Astor library through the inter-library loan service provided.

When a specific book is requested, Astor library staff write first to the Oregon State Library in Salem. Patron making the request may keep the book approximately one month, and is charged five cents for postage.

If the book is also unavailable at the state library, request is made to the Pacific Northwest Bibliographic center at the University of Washington. This center has a current list of books available at lending libraries, and charge for this service includes both insurance and postage, charged to the patron.

Persons living in Astoria must place request with the Astor library. However those outside the city limits may make requests directly to the state.



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## Sign Marks Memorial to War Veterans



The fact that the new Astor library is a memorial to Clatsop county war veterans is emphasized by this sign

beside the south entrance to the new building. Behind the sign is a special Veteran Memorial room.

## Landscaping of Library Grounds Near Finish

Landscape Architect Lloyd Bond, Eugene, determined what plants would be best suited to exterior design of the new Astor library before Lyle's Garden center, Seaside, began planting. Landscaping is now almost complete. Some difficulty has been experienced in locating daphne ordora, a shrub bearing pink blossoms, that will be used in the front of the building.

Topsoil came from the Knappa area, which is recognized throughout the state as having superior topsoil.

The north side of the building has been set with Heavily bamboo, which has broader leaves than common bamboo. Leaves turn bril-

liant in the fall. Basic shrub used around the base of the exterior is creeping juniper.

The parking lot area, bordering the streets, has been planted with Japanese Holly, identified by tiny leaves and lack of thorns, and black berries. To grace the lot in the spring will be two thundercloud plum trees.

Leaves of the red ivy planted on the east side of the parking lot as ground cover turn bright crimson in the fall. Flanking the sides of the Veterans Memorial entrance are Burford Chinese Holly trees.

The four David maples in tubs in front of the building were chosen because of beauty of foliage in the summer,

and the decorative bark and form of mature branches when barren in the winter.

The new library is illuminated at night by 32 floodlights each containing 500 watts, a total of 1600 watts of electric power. A photo-elec-

tric cell turns the lights on at dusk, and a regulated clock turns them off at 11 p.m.

Interior lighting meets code requirements in that a certain number of lights (safety lights) remain throughout the evening.

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Mrs. Paul Flood has charge of the children's section of the library, which has two main divisions: the "easy section," which emphasizes the better children's authors and illustrators, and the "junior section" for those from the third grade through junior high. Both fiction and non-fiction are found in this portion. Reference

materials geared to this age group are also available in the children's section. From left, Paul and Ellen Eberhardt, children of the Clifford Eberhardts, Gearhart; Mrs. Flood; and Steve and Stacy, children of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Bechtolt.

## *Books for Young Readers Gathered In Children's Area*

Children will find their special corner in the new Astor library is far more than just a corner . . . it is shelf after shelf of attractively arranged books divided into two large sections.

And if youngsters use the Exchange street entrance, they will enter their haven of reading pleasure without even going into the reading room proper.

Section for pre-schoolers and first and second grade students is particularly attractive, with children's furniture surrounding a large round table. Mrs. Paul Flood, in charge of this portion of the library, has tentative plans for a story hour to begin sometime in the future.

The round-table section is the "Easy" section and all books are marked with an "E". Particular attention to well-illustrated picture books and readers is given in the section for the youngest of all patrons.

Second portion of the children's area is called the Junior, "J" section, and is devoted to those from the third grade through junior high school. The library staff keeps the collection of books up-to-date with the best in fiction and non-fiction.

Also available are magazines geared to this age

group, encyclopedias, atlases and dictionaries.

Each year the Caldecott award is given to the best illustrated children's book, and the Newberry award presented to the best edited book. These winners are all in circulation in the children's section.

Mrs. Flood displays seasonal and timely exhibits in this part of the library. She noted that during Children's Book Week, October 29—November 4, under theme of "Take Off With Books," there will be special displays, bookmarks and posters.

The summer reading program carried out by the library each summer is designed as an incentive to children to continue reading during summer vacation. The library takes this opportunity to make reading fun for youngsters, and explained that it is not a contest or race.

Mrs. Flood said that books in the new Astor library will be much easier for the youngsters to locate than when quarters were cramped.

School classes are beginning to swarm into the new library on field trips, at which Mrs. Flood helps the youngsters to get acquainted with the library books and procedures. All groups are welcome.

## *Books Returned to Shelves*



Sandra May, high school senior and page at the Astor library, loads book on wheels preparatory to shelving. Miss May is a part-time employee of the library.

## **Historical Data on Library**

- 1892—Incorporation of Astoria Public Library association, membership \$3 per year. Reading room at 185 Eleventh.
- 1904—Became tax-supported city department.
- 1905—Moved to second floor of old city hall, now Columbia River Maritime museum.
- 1938—Moved to Elks building, main floor.
- 1941—Clatsop County library formed. Bookmobile service provided for rural areas.
- 1946—Clatsop County Veterans' Memorial Library Fund incorporated.
- 1952—City of Astoria library re-established.
- 1958—Moved to Sheahan building.
- 1958-60—North Coastal Regional library sponsored by Rural Library Services Act and State of Oregon.
- 1964—Permanent tax base approved by city voters. Gifts from Astor family and Veterans' Memorial Library Fund launch construction plans.
- 1966—First concrete poured, June 14.
- 1967—Seventy-fifth anniversary. New building dedicated October 8.

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## Mezzanine Level Shelves 'Scholarly' Books



The mezzanine level of the newly constructed \$380,000 Astor Library is visible in the upper portion of this photo. In foreground begins the main reading room, and to the right is the reference section. Many un-

catalogued books, and magazines now collector's items, are shelved on the mezzanine level. Books on this level are of the "scholarly" type.

## Library Offers Attractive Decor

Plush, spacious, light, airy and relaxing . . . this is the interior of the new Astor library on 10th between Duane and Exchange.

And truly a community project. The \$370,000 library was financed for the most part through donations by the local citizenry over a period of several decades.

Twenty years ago the drive for a new library began, and funds were put into the Clatsop County Veterans Memorial Fund. A stipulation of the committee in charge was that there be a room in the new building dedicated to veterans. And that room is the Flag Room.

A total of \$65,601 was raised in the drive, and a granite plaque above the door to the Flag Room makes note that the room is dedicated to the men and women of Clatsop county who served their country in time of war.

The 800-square-foot Veterans Memorial room is designed as a meeting room, and will be utilized by civic, cultural and educational organizations. Children's story hours will also be held in the room.

### Astor Donation Used

The generous donation of \$107,305 made by the Astor family was also used in library construction, and the library is a living memorial to John Jacob Astor, founder of this city.

It was consensus of the community that the gift be used for construction of a library.

And this past spring saw another fund raising drive for interior furnishings.

Again the community came through with necessary funds, and it appears well worth it when one steps inside the door.

Interior decorator George Schwarz, Portland, advised the library building committee on furnishings. The floor is covered with a blue tweed carpet, accented by chairs in three hues . . . hot pink, magenta and royal blue . . . a stunning color combination.

Wood used in the library is white oak that has been fumed, over which has been used a light teak oil.

Entry from 10th street goes into the reading room proper. From Exchange street, one enters the children's section, handsome

with round table surrounded by children's chairs, and flanked by a second children's section for those of an older age group.

Reference area in the middle is spacious, and allows for better storage and speed in finding material, compared with the cramped quarters in the old library.

### 50,000 Volumes Available

The new library has 50,000 volumes, although not all the books are catalogued. Those uncatalogued books are on the mezzanine, where there is room for expansion.

Librarian Bruce Berney said most of the books on the mezzanine are of the type used by scholars.

View from the mezzanine

is both interesting and beautiful. It gives a person a chance to observe the types of activity taking place in all sections of the library.

Albert Mittel, contractor, began construction of the library in mid-June, 1966. Completion was in mid-August, 1967. Eight men worked on the \$370,000 project.

The building is approximately 8,000 square feet, some 6,000 of this occupied by the main reading room. Aside from the reading room and the Veterans Memorial, there is a large storage and book repair in back, and one office for the librarian.

Slender window panes, running from floor to ceiling, and polarized fluorescent lighting make reading easy and enjoyable.

The steel frame building has tilt-up concrete walls on the exterior. Acoustical drop ceilings add to the attractiveness. Floor coverings are tile and carpet on concrete.

The building is fireproof and has an air conditioning system. Walls are plaster on metal studs and are painted white.

Heat is by gas. A sprinkler system has been installed in the boiler room, and a sprinkler system is needed before the full concrete basement can be used.

The parking lot has space for 16 cars, and in the evenings, patrons are welcome to use the city of Astoria parking lot behind the Daily Astorian building.

Outdoor lighting illuminates the building at night. The lighting system is clock operated.



George Schwarz, consultant on interior decorating for the Astor library, overlooks his fine accomplishment from the mezzanine, where uncatalogued books are stored. Schwarz' colors of royal blue, magenta and hot pink for chairs and blue tweed rug, make the library relaxing, plush and cheerful. Brown and Brown, architects, designed the building, and construction was by Albert Mittel, contractor.

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Kathy Korpela, junior at Astoria high school, uses the microfilm viewer in the reference section of the new Astor library to read a back copy of the Daily Astorian. Each reel contains 4-5 months of papers. Viewer is operated manually, moves both backward and forward. The Daily Astorian has given the library microfilm of its papers and predecessors, from 1830-66, on a long-term loan basis. Library has film of the papers dating from 1873-30, and more is being processed by the University of Oregon.

**Papers Saved On Microfilm**

Newspaper research is simplified at the Astor library by use of microfilm, which is seen through a viewer in the reference section of the spacious new building.

The Daily Astorian has given the library microfilm of newspapers from 1830-66 on a long-term loan basis. Papers from 1873-1930 are property of the library and are also microfilmed. Some years are missing, however, due to unknown circumstances.

Papers available on microfilm are the Tri-Weekly Astorian, the Daily Astorian, Astoria Daily Budget and Astoria Evening Budget. The Morning Astorian is in the process of being microfilmed.

Each reel contains 4-5 months of daily newspapers, and the microfilming is done by the University of Oregon. The library will pay for processing papers published from 1966 on.

The library more or less stored those reels of the Daily Astorian, and they are available for use by the public. The newspaper also has a key to the files, and has access for research and to write the daily column "In Days Gone By . . ."

Innovation of microfilming is invaluable in storing the papers which might otherwise be threatened by any unforeseen circumstance.

**Checks File**

Kenna Narkaus, page at the Astor library, sorts through file of overdue books, with city map handy for reference. Miss Narkaus is a junior at Astoria high school.

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This was Lucile Glover, known as "the jovial human dynamo who operates Clatsop county's big yellow bookmobile." Miss Glover was given special credit for the part she played in rural library service. According to her, libraries were too apt to resemble mausoleums.

The library board purchased a bookmobile for \$1,615.20, and it went into service November 1, 1941, maintaining a regular schedule of trips around the county, visiting schools and stations, and making roadside stops for individual families where necessary.

During the first 18 months of operation, the library on wheels made bi-weekly trips over the entire county. However, with curtailment of civilian activity due to the war, gas rationing forced reduction in September 1942 to one trip a month to each district served.

The bookmobile became a travelling institution, anticipated and appreciated by hundreds who previously had no access to books. Number of routes was increased from four in 1941 to 10 in 1947. Schedules were distributed on attractively-colored paper.

Mrs. Phil Blodgett, wife of the county librarian, navigated the books over highways and back roads. The

county roadmaster even called her to inquire as to condition of certain roads, as he grudgingly would say,

"We-uh-we couldn't think of who had used that road recently."

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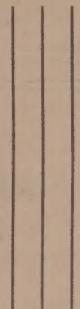
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## Clips Data



Mrs. Darrell Demory, part-time library assistant, cuts articles from newspaper pertaining to events in Astoria and Clatsop county. Articles are then pasted on large sheets of paper and stored in the clipping file in the reference section of the new Astor library. They are catalogued according to subject.

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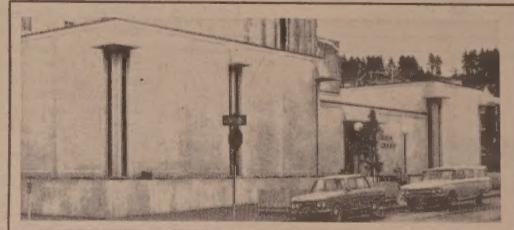
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# Fugitive Fact File Helps to Answer Calls to Library

The "Fugitive Fact File" est innovations at the new library for staff mem-

bers, who receive innumerable telephone calls throughout the day, asking for information on every subject imaginable. Those questions most frequently asked are kept in the file for quick reference.

One question asked often since Hawaii and Alaska were admitted to the union is the geographical center of the United States. Center used to be in Kansas, but now the ready file supplies information the center is in South Dakota, in Butte county, 17 miles west of Castle Rock and 14 miles east of the junction of borders of South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

"If a woman killed her husband, and the charge was reduced from first degree to manslaughter, would the wife be able to collect on his life insurance policy?" This question was recently phoned in, and for questions of this nature, the library staff must jot down the phone number and research the answer.

Another fairly frequent call is on the spelling of "discotheque," and staff said that if they did not have an up-to-date dictionary, they would be unable to answer the queries.

The rest of a quotation-type question, when the author is unknown, is solved by a publication listing poetry according to subject matter.

A woman called recently to ask how to make blackberry syrup. The library ob-

tained the information from the county home extension department, and added one of the pamphlets to the library collection.

Men ask such questions as how to lay tile the old-fashioned way and how to smoke fish. Still others are curious as to particular markings on Chinese pottery. Description of a cotton plant is filed in the Fugitive Fact File.

Questions are so numerous and varied that the list could go on to infinity: everything from statistical information,

population to monetary units, vian countries, Finland and particularly of the Scandinavia-England.

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Following is a list of organizations and individuals who, over the past 20 years, have contributed \$100 or more to the Veterans' Memorial library fund.

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Capt. and Mrs. C. E. Ash, Associated Students of Clatsop Community college, Astoria Classroom Teachers, Astoria Clinic, Astoria Education association, Astoria Post Office Employees, Harry U. Berney, Beta Sigma Phi Silver Tea, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brown.

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Browning, Bumble Bee Seafoods, Business and Professional Women, Carpenters Local No. 780, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Chessman, City Lumber company, Clatsop Box company, Coast Guard Wives club, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Coe.

Crown Zellerbach corporation, Culinary Alliance 311, Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Dahlgren, Capt. J. F. DeSassise and family, Doctors clinic, Eastern Outfitting company, Elks Lodge No. 180, Mrs. Ethelwyn Erbe in memory of Capt. G. F. Erbe, Dr. and Mrs. S. James Estes.

The Exchange club, faculty of Central School, Fir Tex Insulating Board company, Fisher Brothers hardware, First National Bank of Oregon, Fort George Auto Service, Fowler Clinic, G. & A.

Logging company, Mrs. Vera Gault, granges of Clatsop county, Mr. and Mrs. George Gray.

Gyro club, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence J. Hirschert, Hughes - Ransom mortuary, IBEW Local 517, ILWU Local 50, Johnson Motor company, Mrs. Edith I. Johnson in memory of Margaret Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. Johnson, Evert Kankonen, Kirk & Uhl Motors, Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Klep.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Labiske, League of Women Voters, Leicht Motor company, Lions club, Lovell Auto company, Mr. and Mrs. David McClean, MacDonald, Dean and McCallister, Medical Dental center, Mrs. May S. Miller in memory of son Myron, Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Mittet, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Morfitt.

Mothers Club, Co. L, 186th Infantry, 41st division, Ed Niemi Oil company, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Norblad, Mr. and Mrs. Ragnar M. Nyback, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Nygaard, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Nyquist, Mr. and Mrs. William P. O'Brien, Optimist club, Oregon American Lumber company.

Oregon Labor Council AFL-CIO, Oregon Nurses association Dist. 9, Owl Drug store, Pacific Art Guild, Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone, Pacific Power and Light company, J. C. Penny company, Phillips - Vernon Organ concert, Pile Drivers Local 2419.

Mrs. Lola B. Pilkington, Plywood and Veneer Union

2700, Prouty Lumber and Box company, Reinikka Brothers Logging company, Retail Clerks Union No. 147, Rotary club, St. Helens Pulp and Paper company, Scandinavian Benevolent Society, Shepard & Morse Lumber company.

Shipwrights Local 2084, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Sorenson, Star of the Sea school, students of Lewis and Clark district 5 school, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Syvanen, Union Fisherman's Co-op Packing company, United Packing House Food & Allied Workers, United States National Bank of Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Utzinger, Paul C. VanderVeldt, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 371, Mr. and Mrs. David T. Waterhouse, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Watzek, Wauna Lumber company, Women of the Moose, Vergen and Meyer Zion Lutheran church.

### First Library Noted in 1850

Earliest record of any type of library in Clatsop county was in 1850, with one Presbyterian Sunday school library housing 200 volumes.

Ten years later, in 1860, the county had two church libraries, one Presbyterian, the second Methodist. By 1870, a Masonic library had 118 volumes, in addition to the Sunday school and church or pastor's libraries.

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